

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-17, as amended, will remain in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,225,846, hereinafter "Wada") in view of Fujita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,159, hereinafter "Fujita").

Claims 3-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wada in view of Fujita and further in view of Rossi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,513, hereinafter "Rossi").

Claims 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wada and Fujita in view of Rossi and further in view of Gillingham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,510,503, hereinafter "Gillingham").

Applicants have cancelled claim 6 and amended the claims to recite structure that provides the dynamic repeater a noise margin of about  $V_{CC}/2$ , which is achieved by balancing the circuit such that an input voltage of  $V_{CC}/2$  produces an output voltage of  $V_{CC}/2$  in the evaluate mode. Consider exemplary independent claim 1, which recites in relevant part:

"...a plurality of transistors coupled between the input transistor and the output node,

wherein the input transistor and said plurality of transistors are sized in a ratio such that the output node is operative to output a voltage of  $V_{CC}/2$  in response to a voltage of  $V_{CC}/2$  on the input node in the evaluate mode."

None of Wada, Fujita, Rossi, and Gillingham teaches or suggests, either alone or in combination, a dynamic bus repeater with a noise margin of  $V_{CC}/2$  or a balanced circuit that produces

an output voltage of Vcc/2 in response to an input voltage of Vcc/2 in the evaluate mode. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 11 and their dependencies are allowable.

Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$770 for payment of the Request for Continued Examination. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott C. Harris  
Reg. No. 32,030

/BY  
**KENYON JENCKES**  
**REG. NO. 41,873**

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Attorneys for Intel Corporation  
**PTO Customer No. 20985**  
Fish & Richardson P.C.  
12390 El Camino Real  
San Diego, California 92130  
Telephone: (858) 678-5070  
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099

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